

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended): A method ~~for updating network appliances~~, comprising:
determining an urgent update from among a plurality of updates;
creating an urgent update notification (UUN) associated with the urgent update;
sending the UUN to ~~[[the]]~~ at least one network appliance~~[[s]]~~ as messages;
receiving ~~a reply to the UUN~~ request for the urgent update from the ~~at least one of the~~
network appliance~~[[s]]~~, the request for the urgent update being sent by the at least one network
appliance in response to receiving the UUN; and
providing the urgent update to the at least one ~~of the~~ network appliance~~[[s]]~~ in response
to ~~the reply~~ receiving the request for the urgent update.
2. (Currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein sending the UUN to the at least
one network appliance~~[[s]]~~ ~~as messages~~ further comprises sending the ~~messages~~ UUN through a
specific message port~~[[s]]~~ of the at least one network appliance~~[[s]]~~.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended): The method of Claim ~~[[3]]~~ 2, wherein ~~at least one of the~~
~~messages is~~ the UUN conforms to a SMTP Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) conformed
message and ~~at least one of the message port[[s]] is port 25~~.
- 5-6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein providing the urgent update to
the at least one network appliance~~[[s]]~~ comprises ~~enabling the network appliances to obtain~~
providing a log that includes the urgent update to the at least one network appliance.
8. (Currently amended): The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

collecting ~~[[the]]~~ an IP address~~[[es]]~~ of the at least one network appliance~~[[s]]~~ when the at least one network appliance~~[[s]]~~ establishes a connection to obtain updates; and
storing the IP address~~[[es]]~~ in a log.

9. (Previously presented): The method of Claim 8, further comprising removing out-of-date IP addresses from the log.

10. (Currently amended): The method of Claim 9, wherein sending the UUN to the at least one network appliance~~[[s]]~~ comprises sending a message with the UUN to each IP address in the log.

11. (Original): The method of Claim 10, wherein the IP address is up-to-date.

12. (Currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein the method is ~~operable on~~
performed by at least one of a server, a network appliance, and a dedicated platform.

13. (Currently amended): A method ~~for obtaining updates~~, comprising:
receiving a message ~~from a server~~;
determining that the message includes an urgent update notification (UUN);
in response to the determining that the message includes ~~[[an]] the~~ UUN ~~associated with~~
~~an urgent update~~,

establishing a connection with ~~[[a]] the~~ server;
pulling the urgent update from the server; and
installing the urgent update.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended): The method of Claim ~~[[14]]~~ 13, wherein the ~~protocol includes~~
message conforms to a SMTP Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) protocol and ~~[[the]]~~ a
message port includes port 25.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended): The method of Claim [[16]] 13, wherein determining that the message includes ~~[[a]] the~~ UUN comprises detecting ~~[[the]] a~~ special format of the message.

18. (Currently amended): The method of Claim [[16]] 13, wherein pulling the urgent update from the server comprises obtaining a log that includes the urgent update.

19. (Currently amended): The method of Claim [[16]] 13, further comprising obtaining updates from the server at pre-determined intervals.

20. (Currently amended): The method of Claim [[1]] 13, wherein the method is ~~operable on~~ performed by at least one of a server, a network appliance, a router, a switch, and a firewall.

21. (Currently amended): A system ~~for managing a network~~, comprising:
an update server configured to determine updates and to provide the updates to network appliances, the update server~~[[s]]~~ being further configured to determine an update that is urgent and to send an urgent update notification (UUN) about the urgent update to each network appliance; and

a network appliance configured to periodically obtain updates from the update server, the network appliance being further configured to receive from the update server ~~[[an]] the~~ UUN ~~associated with an urgent update~~ and to pull the urgent update from the update server in response to the received UUN.

22. (Original): The system of Claim 21, wherein the update server is further configured to collect IP addresses of the network appliances in conjunction with periodic update requests, store the IP addresses in a log, and remove an IP address from the log when the IP address is out-of-date.

23. (Original): The system of Claim 21, wherein the update server is further configured to send the UUN as a message to each network appliance through a specific message port.

24. (Currently amended): The system of Claim 21, wherein the update server is further configured to ~~enable connect to~~ the network appliances ~~to connect to the update server and to obtain~~ provide updates to the network appliances.

25. (Currently amended): The system of Claim 24, wherein the update server is further configured to determine IP addresses associated with each of the network appliances when the network appliances connect to the update server to receive or check for updates.

26. (Currently amended): The system of Claim 25, wherein the update server is further configured to send the UUN to each of the IP addresses.

27. (Original): The system of Claim 21, wherein the update server is further configured to maintain a log that includes the updates.

28. (Currently amended): The system of Claim 21, wherein the network appliance is configured to access the log to obtain the updates.

29. (Currently amended): An apparatus ~~for providing updates to network appliances,~~ comprising:

means for determining an urgent update;

means for creating an ~~UUN~~ urgent update notification (UUN) associated with the urgent update;

means for collecting and maintaining IP addresses of ~~[[the]]~~ network appliances;

means for sending the UUN to the network appliances as messages;

means for receiving a ~~reply to the UUN~~ request for the urgent update from at least one of the network appliances; and

means for providing the urgent update to the at least one of the network appliances in response to the [[reply]] request.

30. (Currently amended): An apparatus ~~for obtaining updates~~, comprising:

means for receiving a message;

means for determining when the message includes an ~~UUN~~ urgent update notification (UUN) associated with an urgent update;

means for establishing a connection with a server in response to a determination that the message includes [[an]] the ~~UUN~~ associated with [[an]] the urgent update;

means for pulling the urgent update from the server; and

means for installing the urgent update.

31. (Currently amended): A network appliance, comprising:

a central processing unit; and

at least one data storage;

wherein the network appliance, in conjunction with the central processing unit and the at least one data storage, ~~is~~ [[are]] configured to ~~enable the network appliance to~~ receive a message ~~from a server~~, determine if the message includes an ~~UUN~~ urgent update notification (UUN) associated with an urgent update, establish a connection with [[a]] the server and request the urgent update from the server in response to a determination that the message includes [[an]] the ~~UUN~~ associated with [[an]] the urgent update, receive the urgent update from the server, and install the urgent update.

32. (Currently amended): The network appliance of Claim 31, wherein:

the network appliance, in conjunction with the central processing unit and the at least one data storage, ~~is~~ ~~are~~ configured to ~~enable the network appliance to~~ detect and remove exploits from messages; and

the urgent update comprises software ~~for execution by~~ configured to execute on the network appliance.

33. (Currently amended): The network appliance of Claim 32, wherein the network appliance comprises a message port arranged to receive messages, including messages comprising ~~[[an]]~~ the UUN.

34. (Currently amended): The network appliance of Claim 31, wherein the central processing unit and the at least one data storage are configured to determine if the message includes ~~[[an]]~~ the UUN associated with ~~[[an]]~~ the urgent update, based on a format of the message.

35. (Currently amended): An update server, comprising:
a central processing unit; and
at least one data storage;
wherein the update server, in conjunction with the central processing unit and the at least one data storage, is ~~[[are]]~~ configured to ~~enable the update server to~~ determine an urgent update, create an urgent update notification (UUN) ~~[[UUN]]~~ associated with the urgent update, collect and maintain IP addresses of ~~[[the]]~~ network appliances, send the UUN to the network appliances as messages, receive a ~~reply to the UUN~~ request for the urgent update from at least one of the network appliances, and provide the urgent update to the at least one of the network appliances in response to the ~~reply~~ request.

36. (Currently amended): The update server of Claim 35, wherein the update server, in conjunction with the central processing unit and the at least one data storage, is ~~are~~ configured to ~~enable the update server to~~ collect IP addresses of the network appliances based on the messages generated by the network appliances, store the collected IP addresses, and remove out-of-date IP addresses from the at least one data storage.

37. (Currently amended): The update server of Claim 35, wherein the urgent update comprises software ~~for execution by~~ configured to execute on the network appliances.

38. (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one network appliance is configured to detect and remove exploits from messages.

39. (New): A method comprising:

- obtaining updates for at least one network appliance;
- recording a plurality of the updates in an update log;
- receiving an update request from the at least one network appliance;
- providing the updates recorded in the update log to the at least one network appliance in response to the receiving the update request;
- determining an urgent update from among the updates;
- creating an urgent update notification (UUN) associated with the urgent update;
- sending the UUN to the at least one network appliance;
- receiving a request for the urgent update from the at least one network appliance, the request for the urgent update being sent by the at least one network appliance in response to receiving the UUN; and
- providing the urgent update to the at least one of the network appliances in response to receiving the request for the urgent update.

40. (New): A method comprising:

- periodically sending update requests to a server;
- obtaining updates from the server, the updates being stored in an update log of the server and being provided by the server in response to the server receiving the update requests;
- receiving a message;
- determining that the message includes an urgent update notification (UUN); and
- in response to the determining that the message includes the UUN,
 - establishing a connection with a server;
 - pulling the urgent update from the server; and
 - installing the urgent update.